

Intervention: Community interventions to help prevent the initiation of smoking in young people

Finding: Insufficient evidence to determine effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background on the intervention:

The goals of most community interventions are to set in place structures that both support and reinforce efforts to improve health and well-being. It has been argued that the essence of the community approach to smoking prevention lies in its multi-dimensionality, in the coordination of activities to maximize the chance of reaching all members, and in ongoing and widespread support for the maintenance of non-smoking behavior. Community interventions with multiple components, such as age restrictions for tobacco purchase, tobacco-free public places, various mass media communications and special programs in schools, are often combined to create large-scale community-wide initiatives to prevent the initiation of smoking in young people.

Findings from the systematic reviews:

There is insufficient evidence that community interventions alone help prevent the initiation of smoking in young people. However, research indicates that coordinated multi-component programs can reduce smoking among young people, and do so more effectively than single strategies alone.

References:

Lantz PM, Jacobson PD, Warner KE, Wasserman J, Pollack HA, Berson J, Ahlstrom A. Investing in youth tobacco control: a review of smoking prevention and control strategies. *Tobacco Control* 2000; 9: 47-63.

Sowden A, Arblaster L, Stead L. Community interventions for preventing smoking in young people. *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2003, Issue 1. Art. No: CD001291. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001291.